

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2009

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) was held on May 20, 2009, at the American Legion Department of Virginia Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Robert Gray, *American Ex-POWs*
- Connie O'Neill, *American Legion*
- James Aucoin, *AMVETS*
- Samuel Wilder, *AUSA*
- Daniel Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*
- John Dozier, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Richard Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor*
- John Bonnell, *Marine Corps League*
- Norman Jasper, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Wes Edwards, *MOAA*
- Bill Townsley, *MOWW*
- David Ellis, *NAUS*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Thomas Stephen, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Frank Sherman, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- Michael Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*
- Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Jenny Holbert, *Women Marines Association*
- Paul Galanti, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services*
- Vince Burgess, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

Members Absent

- Mason Botts, *Air Force Association*
- Thomas Snee, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- Richard Schneider, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*
- John Jackson, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Michala Smith, *WAVES*
- Frank Wickersham, *Veterans Services Foundation*

Alternates Present (representing their Veterans Service Organization)

- Jeff Platte, *Air Force Association*

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- Philip Stoneman, *AUSA*
- David Martinez, *DAV*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Pete Fairchild, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Don Kaiserman, *MOAA*
- John Velleca, *Virginia National Guard Association*

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Stephen Parker, *Office of the Secretary of Public Safety*
- Don Ferguson, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Martha Mead, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Ken Rich, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Barbara Vonada, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Danielle Weaver, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Catherine Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Michael Pote, *Department of Human Resources Management*
- Stacy Pendleton, *DMHMRSAS*

Others Present

- George Corbett, *Vietnam Veterans of America*
- Faye Early, *AUSA*
- C.W. Laugerbaum, *CXI*
- Chip Moran, *NAUS*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*

Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- Vet Preference Policy Guide (Agenda Item V.b.)
- DHRM Fact Sheet – Veterans Employment (Agenda Item V.b.)
- Board of Veterans Services Report (Agenda Item VI.a.)
- Veterans Services Foundation Report (Agenda Item VI.b.)
- Department of Veterans Services Report (Agenda Item VI.c.)
- VSF Fundraising Results (Agenda Item VII.b.)

- Powers and Duties review (Agenda Item VII.c.)
- Conducting an Effective State Legislative Program (Agenda Item VII.d.)
- AUSA Proposed State Legislative Objectives 2010
- Parliamentary Procedures

Additional Handouts

- Virginia War Memorial Request for Assistance
- VWWP Major Contributors
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission 2009 Workplan

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Boyer called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

Eighteen of 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (17 by a primary member and 1 by an alternate member), and a quorum was determined. The Commissioner of Veterans Services and the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services were recorded as present. Frank Driscoll arrived shortly after the meeting began.

Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously. See *Attachment 1*.

Review and Approval of March 25, 2009 meeting minutes

The draft minutes of the March 25, 2009 meeting were adopted without change by unanimous consent.

Chairman Boyer asked that guests be introduced to the Council.

Steven Combs introduced Stacy Pendleton, DVS Human Resources Manager; C.W. Laugerbaum of CXI, Incorporated; and Brett Reistad, who will be the next American Legion representative to the JLC. Mr. Combs recognized George Corbett, who will represent the Vietnam Veterans of America beginning in July; Harry Warner, Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation; and Chip Moran, who will be the next NAUS representative to the JLC. Mr. Combs pointed out that several alternates were in attendance.

Catherine Wilson introduced Barbara Vonada, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Executive Assistant and Ken Rich, VWWP Regional Director for southern Virginia.

Chairman Boyer thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Presentations

Virginia War Memorial

Jon Hatfield, Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial (VWM), discussed the VWM Request for Assistance, included as Attachment 2 to these minutes. Mr. Hatfield explained that the request includes one-time funding for Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) as well as increased operating costs to reflect the expansion of the VWM and its mission. He pointed out that because the square footage of the War Memorial will increase substantially, he will be charged a significantly higher rent by the Department of General Services, and that this is reflected in his request. Mr. Hatfield asked that the Council consider supporting the VWM as one of its 2010 legislative objectives.

Veterans Preference in State Hiring

Mike Pote, Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM), discussed the Veterans Preference in State Hiring, referring to the Commonwealth's policy on veterans preference (DHRM Policy 2.10) and the DHRM fact sheet veterans preference, included as Attachment 3 to these minutes.

The Council members thanked Mr. Pote and DHRM for their hard work in developing the new policy.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services Report

BVS Chairman Paul Galanti delivered the report of the Board of Veterans Services, included as Attachment 4 to these minutes.

Mr. Galanti reiterated his admiration for the hard work of the JLC and its successes. He told that Council that he and Commissioner Burgess will meet Friday with John Gingrich, Chief of Staff to VA Secretary Shinseki, to discuss the Automated Claims Processing System.

Veterans Services Foundation Report

Jack Hilgers delivered the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) report in VSF Chairman Frank Wickersham's absence. The VSF report is included as Attachment 5 to these minutes.

Department of Veterans Services Report

Commissioner Burgess delivered the report of the Department of Veterans Services, included as Attachment 6 to these minutes.

Commissioner Burgess stated that the Commonwealth of Virginia is still dealing with revenue shortfalls and a hiring freeze. He said that he anticipates that the Governor will announce additional budget cuts after July 1st.

Commissioner Burgess noted that the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) is at full capacity and is averaging about 157 full beds. He pointed out that DVS had learned many

lessons in opening SBVCC, and that the lessons will be applied to the opening of the care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. He added that the Hampton VA Medical Center had received funds to demolish the buildings that are currently on the site of the future Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center and that the demolition was expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Mr. Rinaldo asked if a name had been chosen for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center. Mr. Combs answered that DVS is currently working on a policy regarding the naming of facilities, but that most veterans facilities are named for the city or region in which they are located.

Commissioner Burgess turned the floor over to Ms. Wilson, who asked Sam Wilder to join her at the front of the room. Ms. Wilson thanked Mr. Wilder for all his hard work in helping to establish the VWWP and presented him with a plaque recognizing his exceptional service.

Ms. Wilson then asked Martha Mead to join her at the front of the room. Ms. Wilson thanked Ms. Mead for her hard work and diligence in helping to establish the VWWP and in starting the program over the past year. Ms. Wilson presented Ms. Mead with an award in recognition of her outstanding efforts.

Ms. Wilson next presented a pin to Anne Atkins for all of her help with the VWWP. Ms. Wilson then turned the floor over to Ms. Mead.

Ms. Mead gave the Council an update on the VWWP. She covered the following areas:

- \$1.7M has been awarded through competitive grants
 - Services to be provided by the VWWP grant recipients range from increased outpatient counseling and crisis intervention for veterans, their spouses and children, to day programs and other support for veterans with traumatic brain injuries
 - The initial period of the grant funding is through June 2010
 - Provided Orientation to the Regions on Apr 30—well attended
 - Regional Programs are hiring staff
 - Very positive feedback at Virginia Association of Community Service Boards (VACSB) Conference regarding regional programs and enthusiasm for outreach and working together
- The VWWP is going after additional grant opportunities. Letters of Support or direct participation include grants with:
 - The Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Partnership for People with Disabilities
 - \$132,000 per year for 3 years. Initial training in June/July on TBI and Working with the VA. Plan to develop a long-term training plan for VWWP, including training for our staff and for each of the regions. Training will be developed for caregivers and volunteers as well.
 - US Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program- Priority to Veterans

- “A Family Focus for Treatment of Trauma Related Disorders among Veterans at Risk for Contact with the Criminal Justice System
- \$394,000 per FY for 5 years
- The program would be integrated with the 10 existing jail diversion programs established by DMHMRSAS. A pilot program would be implemented with the program in Va. Beach.
- Goal to train all ten programs on trauma informed care—the role of trauma in chronic mental illness, i.e., depression, suicide, substance abuse.
- Pilot a Family Informed Trauma Treatment program with the Virginia Beach CSB and focused on serving veterans and active duty from the surrounding military bases. This treatment model focuses on including the entire family in the treatment of the veteran and on preventing involvement with the criminal justice system, or preventing further interaction with the criminal justice system.
- To provide information from the pilot to the other 10 diversion programs across the Commonwealth and to develop similar treatment delivery programs in those areas.
- Advisory Board: Richard Bonnie, Chair, Virginia Commission on MH Law Reform, Dr. Reinhard, Joan Gillece, Director Nat’l Center for Trauma Informed Care, NASMHPD, Victoria Cochran, Commonwealth Consortium for MH and CJ Transformation and Dan Boyer, Chairman, JLC
- Cathy Wilson, Principle Investigator
- VCU Center for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering (CERSE) proposal focused on veterans with spinal cord injuries: design and deliver a combination of innovative educational supports for up to 30 veterans at McGuire through proactive case management strategies, the use of Educational Coaches and an Education/Career Support Plan, to assist veterans with SCI in need of intensive and specialized services to enable them to enter postsecondary programs across the state.
- DVS VWWP hosted an executive level meeting with DRS, DMHMRSAS, the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, and USDVA representatives. This group will be formalized in the near future to help coordination of state efforts in the area of Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury
- The VWWP Advisory Council is being formed and should be in place by July

Mr. Rinaldo asked Ms. Mead if she had heard of the active program “Helping Hand” in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Rinaldo briefly covered the purpose of this program, noting that it had received considerable funding. Ms. Mead said that she had not heard of the program but would look into it.

Mr. Wilder asked if DVS had applied for any grants specifically for VWWP. Ms. Mead explained that DVS has only requested funding through the congressional delegation, but was a partner to many grants, as discussed earlier.

The Council took a break between 11:15 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. while the tape was changed.

Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Report

Tom Stephen, JLC Representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC), reported that the VCSSC had not met since the last JLC meeting, and therefore he did not have a report. He said that the VCSSC is tentatively scheduled to meet on June 16.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Wilder said that in light of the upcoming turnover in Council membership and in light of the recent change to the JLC By-Laws, the Nominating Committee nominates the current chairman and vice-chairman for a second term. Chairman Boyer said he would be honored to serve again if elected, but that the floor would stay open for further nominations. John Bonnell made a **motion**, seconded by Mike Coleman to accept the proposed nominees. The motion passed unanimously. Elections will be held at the August 12 meeting.

Old Business

Funeral Honors for Unclaimed Veterans Cremated Remains

Mr. Bonnell told the Council that 11 groups, including the JLC, the Department of Veterans Services, the BVS, the Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA), and the Missing in America Project (MIAP), will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide funeral honors for unclaimed veterans cremated remains.

Mr. Bonnell provided a brief overview of the process that will be followed under the MOU:

- Funeral homes will submit a list of their unclaimed cremated remains (cremains) to the Department of Veterans Services. MIAP or VSO volunteers can assist funeral homes if needed
- The Department of Veterans Services will determine if any of the unclaimed cremains are those of a veteran, and, if so, if the veteran is eligible for interment in a veterans cemetery
- DVS will work with the funeral homes, the MIAP, and the VSOs to transfer the veterans' cremains to a state or national veterans cemetery
- The Virginia Army National Guard, one of the military services, or a VSO will provide military funeral honors
- The number of funeral homes participating, the number of cremains identified, and the number of veterans cremains transferred to a veterans cemetery will be reported to the MIAP
- MIAP or VSO volunteers may be asked to visit funeral homes that haven't responded to initial requests for information, or that need assistance in compiling lists of unclaimed cremains

Mr. Bonnell said that he, Mr. Combs, DVS Cemeteries Director Dan Kemano, and Charles Warthling of the MIAP would attend the VFDA Annual Convention on June 16 in Roanoke. Mr. Bonnell said he and Mr. Kemano would man a display table, while Mr. Combs and Mr. Warthling would deliver a seminar on the *Funeral Honors for Unclaimed Veterans Cremated Remains* Program.

Mr. Bonnell also stated that the MOU will be signed at the VFDA Convention. He asked the JLC for a vote of support for the *Funeral Honors for Unclaimed Veterans Cremated Remains* Program and for the proposed MOU. Chairman Boyer added that he would attend the June 16 MOU signing ceremony. Dan Miller made a **motion**, seconded by Frank Driscoll, that the Council support the *Funeral Honors for Unclaimed Veterans Cremated Remains* Program. The motion passed unanimously.

JLC support of Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

Mr. Hilgers called the members' attention to the handouts titled "VSF Fundraising Results for FY09," included as Attachment 7 to these minutes, and "Major VWWP Contributors," included as Attachment 8 to these minutes. Mr. Hilgers briefly reviewed both documents, after which Chairman Boyer commended the VSOs represented on the JLC for their support of the VWWP.

The Council took a lunch break between 12:00 p.m. and 12:35 p.m. The tape was also changed at this time.

JLC Powers and Duties review

Jenny Holbert called the members' attention to the JLC Powers and Duties Review, included as Attachment 9 to these minutes.

Vice Chairman Holbert thanked Mason Botts and David Ellis for working with her on the review, and thanked Mr. Combs for his many ideas, comments, and suggestions. She said that the Powers and Duties set forth in the Code of Virginia were written to allow the JLC to act (Powers), and with an expectation that the JLC would act (Duties), on a range of matters. She stated that this gives the JLC wide latitude to determine the best course as it matures as an organization.

Vice Chairman Holbert led a discussion of the six powers set forth in the Code of Virginia, and provided a summation of how well the JLC was meeting the expectations (duties) established in the Code. She then presented nine recommendations for the Council to consider, noting that the recommendations were provided as a basis for discussion and further development as the Council saw fit.

The Council members expressed appreciation for the work of the review team, and discussion ensued on the recommendations. While generally supportive of the recommendations, some Council members expressed concern over the time and resources required for their implementation. It was generally recognized that the JLC is doing an excellent job of meeting its current obligations, but that to take on additional obligations would strain the capacity of a volunteer organization.

Chairman Boyer thanked Vice Chairman Holbert and her team for an excellent report and expressed his appreciation for their thoughtful recommendations.

Awards & Recognition

Chairman Boyer asked the Council members for their brief indulgence while he exercised the Chairman's prerogative to add one brief item to the agenda.

Chairman Boyer introduced Faye Early, AUSA State President. Ms. Early announced she was here to thank Mr. Wilder for his outstanding service to AUSA and to the JLC. Ms. Early presented Mr. Wilder with a plaque in recognition. Mr. Wilder graciously accepted the plaque with a brief statement.

Chairman Boyer then asked Mr. Wilder to remain at the front of the room so that he could present him with a plaque in recognition of his service as JLC Chairman from 2007-2008. Mr. Wilder accepted the plaque, declaring that he was speechless.

JLC Legislative SOP

Don Kaiserman briefed the Council on the *JLC Legislative Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)* he and Mr. Wilder are preparing to guide the JLC before and during the 2010 General Assembly session. The SOP table of contents are included as Attachment 10 to these minutes.

Mr. Kaiserman asked the members to review the proposed outline, and noted that he expects to present the completed SOP to Chairman Boyer before the August 12 meeting.

Initial Review: JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives

Chairman Boyer called the members attention to the handout titled "AUSA Proposed State Legislative Objectives 2010," submitted by Mr. Wilder and included as Attachment 11 to these minutes. Chairman Boyer reviewed each of the proposed objectives in turn, asking for a preliminary vote on whether to include the objective among the JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives. Finally, he asked for a legislative sponsor for each proposed objective.

1. Real Estate Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. The DAV will be the sponsor
2. Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. The VFW will be the sponsor
3. Continue Funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program: the Council members agreed this should be a legislative objective for 2010 if it is not included as part of the base budget for the Department of Veterans Services or if additional funding is needed beyond that included in the base budget

The Council took a break between 1:45 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. while the tape was changed.

4. Military Family Relief Fund: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. The Virginia National Guard Association will be the sponsor
5. Special Veterans Court: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. Bill Townsley will be the sponsor

Chairman Boyer introduced two additional objectives for consideration: support for the Virginia War Memorial and funding for the Automated Claims Processing System.

The Council members agreed to add support to the Virginia War Memorial to the preliminary list of 2010 Legislative Objectives, but decided to leave the Automated Claims Processing System off the list for the time being, pending further developments.

One other potential objective was discussed in detail: unemployment compensation for military spouses. Wes Edwards said that MOAA would take the lead on researching this issue.

Mr. Edwards then made a **motion**, seconded by Mr. Wilder, that the sponsors of JLC Legislative Objectives take on the additional responsibility to work with General Assembly patrons to ensure that bills that have a fiscal impact have an accompanying budget amendment request. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Chairman Boyer noted that “New Business” should have been included on the agenda, and asked if any member had any new items to bring before the Council.

Mr. Miller extended a sincere thank you to the Council members, stating that he was proud to have been associated with this group for the past six years. He thanked Commissioner Burgess and Mr. Combs for their outstanding support.

Connie O’Neill distributed a handout titled “Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) 2009 Workplan – Homeless Veterans Study,” included at Attachment 12 to these minutes. Mr. O’Neill noted that the JLARC Study would begin in the fall and would be completed by summer 2010.

Public comment period

There was no public comment

Preparation for August 12 meeting

Chairman Boyer reminded the Council members that they or their replacement should attend the August 12th meeting and be prepared to decide the JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives.

He invited all of the members whose terms expire in June to attend the August meeting for a special recognition of their service.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 2:30.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Department of Virginia Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
May 20, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- II. Roll call of VSOs and quorum determination – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- III. Approval of agenda – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- IV. Review and approval of March 25, 2009 meeting minutes – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- V. Presentations
 - a. Virginia War Memorial – *Jon Hatfield* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Preference in State Hiring – *Mike Pote* (5 minutes)
- VI. Reports
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Frank Wickersham* (5 minutes)
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Vince Burgess* (15 minutes)
 - d. Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council – *Tom Stephen* (5 minutes)
 - e. Nominating Committee – *Sam Wilder* (5 minutes)
- VII. Old business
 - a. Funeral Honors for Unclaimed Veterans Cremains – *John Bonnell* (10 minutes)
 - b. JLC support of Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Jack Hilgers* (5 minutes)
 - c. JLC Powers and Duties review – *Jenny Holbert* (10 minutes)
 - d. JLC Legislative SOP – *Don Kaiserman and Sam Wilder* (10 minutes)
- VIII. Break/working lunch (30 minutes)
- IX. Initial Review: JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives – *Dan Boyer* (90 minutes)
- X. Public comment period (10 minutes)
- XI. Prepare for August 12 meeting – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- XII. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Virginia War Memorial

Virginia War Memorial Foundation
621 South Belvidere Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220-6504
804.786.2060 * FAX: 804.786.6652
www.vawarmemorial.org

May 20, 2009

Request for Assistance

The Virginia War Memorial will start construction of the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center on June 8, 2009. Initial construction will consist of site-work and ordering long lead-time items such as structural steel and stone cladding. This construction activity triggers two primary budget requirements for the Memorial. To ensure passage in the 2010 Session, the Memorial requests JLC support for these issues:

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| I. | One Time request: Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E)
The Department of Planning and Budget directed that the submission for FF&E be made at the time construction begins. | |
| | Budget Request for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2010: | \$909,729 |
| II. | Ongoing Budget Request starting July 1, 2010 to operate the Memorial and the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center: | |
| | • Current Operating Budget | \$247,313 |
| | • Additional Rent Plan Charges | 239,900 |
| | • Education Center Program Items | |
| | Library – Conservation & Acquisition | |
| | Preservation & Conservation Supplies | |
| | Archival Storage Supplies | |
| | Special Displays and Exhibits | |
| | Artifact Acquisition | |
| | Advertising | |
| | Speakers, Authors, Historical | |
| | Interpreters, Musical Groups, etc. | |
| | Special Patriotic Events | |
| | Volunteer Support | |
| | Participation/Support/Attendance at | |
| | Meetings/Conferences/Conventions | |
| | Literature (Rack card, Events, Programs, etc.) | |
| | Event Sound and Lighting | |

Education Programs	88,100
• Additional Positions:	
Assistant Director	
Wage Positions (2)	
Personnel Additions	118,000
 Total Ongoing Request:	 \$693,313

ATTACHMENT 3

POLICY GUIDE

Policy 2.10 – Hiring Veteran's Preference

The Code of Virginia requires that state agencies shall give preference in the hiring process to veterans. The Governor's Executive Order 1 (2006) permits appropriate employment preferences for veterans and specifically prohibits discrimination against veterans. If an agency uses a scored test by which to evaluate applicants, veterans must receive a credit of an additional 5% of his or her score or, if the applicant is a veteran having a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veteran's Administration, he or she must receive a credit of an additional 10% of his or her score. To be eligible for such an increase in score, the applicant must first achieve a passing score on the test or examination. However, because most state recruitments do not use scored tests, the challenge for agencies is to apply a preference that is equivalent to the 5% increase veterans receive on test scores (10% for veterans with a disability rating from the United States Veterans Administration). The following guidelines are designed to help agencies achieve this required level of preference.

Initial screening: Applicants are screened to identify those who meet the minimum requirements for the position – the equivalent of achieving a passing score on a test. No preference is given. Applicants must meet the required criteria at a minimum or better level on their own.

Preference applied after initial screening phase: After the initial screening, veteran status is noted for the candidates. The state application provides preliminary notice of veteran status; the agency may need to follow up to identify the exact status of veteran applicants. At this stage, preference shall be given by treating veteran status as a preferred qualification. Further preference shall be given if the veteran applicant also has a service-connected disability rating by treating the veteran's disabled status as a second preferred qualification. Adding a preferred qualification criterion for veteran status and, if applicable, a second preferred criterion for disabled veteran status will therefore result in the veteran applicant and the disabled veteran applicant receiving the additional preference required by Code.

NOTE: DHRM advises that job postings and/or advertisement *not state veteran and disabled veteran as preferred qualifications.*

Published by DHRM on April, 30 2009

2009 FACT SHEET ON VETERAN'S PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT

- Virginia has a long history of providing Veteran's Preference. (Current Code reference: § 2.2-2903)
 - ❑ In accordance with federal law, agencies that administer a written test must add points for veterans who pass the examination.
 - ❑ Agencies that do not administer written tests consider the applicant's experience gained in the military provided the veteran meets all knowledge, skill and ability requirements for the available position.
- Virginia has a broader definition of "Veteran" for purposes of veteran's preference than the federal government and most other states.
 - ❑ Veteran means any person who has received an honorable discharge and has: provided more than 180 days of full-time, active duty in the armed forces of the United States or reserve components thereof, or has a service connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Affairs.
- DHRM published the Veteran's Hiring Preference Guidance document in April, 2009. Veterans are the only group to receive preference in Virginia.
- Requests for Veterans Preference are a recurring theme during legislative sessions. Anecdotal information has been provided to legislators resulting in the introduction of legislation.
- As of May 12, 2009, the Department of Human Resource Management updated information previously provided to the JLC on May 13, 2008 to present certain facts. How are we doing? Are Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) agencies able to translate military experience adequately in the hiring process?
 - ❑ Veterans' account for 10.5 percent of the population of Virginia. (807,326¹ of 7,712,091²)
 - ❑ Veterans under the age of 65 account for 7.4% of the population of Virginia. Assuming all veterans are either employable or seeking employment, this figure provides a basis to consider their availability for employment. If Veterans employed by Commonwealth of Virginia agencies accounted for less than 7.4%, the COV could be "underutilized."
 - ❑ As of 5/12/09 veterans' employed by COV agencies accounted for 9.3% of the classified workforce of 72,456. Disclosure of veteran status is optional. We

¹ USDVA VetPop2007 estimates as of 9-30-07 (no update as of 5/12/09)

² 2007 U. S. Census Bureau estimates

believe the percentage of veterans in the COV workforce may be understated because the data was collected after the hire date.

- ❑ This is down slightly from the 2008 data which showed that veterans accounted for 9.6% of a workforce of 73,404.
 - ❑ Salaries of veterans employed by COV agencies exceed the salaries of non-veterans. The average salary for veterans was \$45,128 compared to \$41,448 for non-veterans based on May 1, 2009 data.
 - ❑ The salary difference between veterans and non-veterans increased slightly from 2008 to 2009.
 - ❑ Salaries of veterans exceed the average paid to non-veterans in most EEO categories: Officials, Professionals, Technicians, Protective Service, Paraprofessionals, Skilled Crafts and Maintenance. Salaries of Veterans are slightly lower than the average of non-veterans employed in Office Support occupations (\$31,588 v \$31,885). This difference is slightly larger than in 2008.
 - ❑ Veterans continue to be highly represented in management/administrative, professional, technician, protective service and skilled crafts occupations. They are underrepresented in paraprofessional and office support areas.
- Conclusions:
 - ❑ State veteran hiring exceeds proportionate veteran availability in the market
 - ❑ Veterans have received credit for their prior experience, which is reflected in their salaries
 - ❑ Skills that veterans' acquired in the service are utilized in their state careers.
 - Outreach Activities
 - ❑ DHRM established a Veteran's Outreach Council and works collaboratively with the VEC and the Transition Assistance Program.
 - ❑ DHRM developed a web site for veterans which links to other employment sites.

Staff members participate in job fairs targeted for veteran employment and invite

ATTACHMENT 4

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS May 20, 2009

The Board of Veterans Services met on April 22, 2009. At the meeting, the BVS:

- Received reports from the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations and the Veterans Services Foundation
- Received the report of the Department of Veterans Services
- Received reports from the standing committees of the BVS
- Received legislative updates from Delegates Cole, Cox, and Watts

The July 15 BVS meeting will be held at the American Legion Building in Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations (JLC) May 20, 2009

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on May 6, 2009. The meeting:

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services (BVS), JLC, and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's Reports.
- (2) Received Standing Committee Reports.
- (3) Reviewed Foundation fund raising conducted during FY09.
- (4) Approved the Veterans Services Fund Quarterly Report for submission to the DVS Commissioner.
- (5) Approved a FY09 budget request for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP).
- (6) Approved FY10 budget requests for care centers, cemeteries, and Foundation operations.
- (7) Approved a VSF Policy and VSF-DVS Joint Policies.
- (8) Appointed a Nominating Committee to present candidates for Board officers for the Board election on August 5, 2009.

The Development Committee held one meeting (May 6, 2009) to review fundraising progress and VWWP fundraising briefing. The minutes of this meeting is posted on the DVS Website and Commonwealth Calendar. The Finance Committee held two meetings (April 29, 2009 and May 6, 2009). The minutes of these meetings are posted on the DVS Website and Commonwealth Calendar.

Foundation fund raising for VWWP had reached over \$103,000 at the time of the meeting. Since then to date, an additional \$3,350 has been raised to meet the fund raising goal for FY09. Optimism was expressed regarding reaching the \$150,000 goal.

The Board approved long overdue policies affecting VSF and DVS. They are VSF Policy #1 (Policy Development and Approval Procedures), VSF-DVS Joint Policy #1 (Coordination between VSF and DVS with BVS and JLC), VSF-DVS Joint Policy #2 (Foundation Operations), VSF-DVS Joint Policy #3 (Fundraising), VSF-DVS Joint Policy #4 (Processing Financial Donations), and VSF-DVS Joint Policy #6 (VWWP Support Fund Policy and Procedures).

On May 11, 2009, the Board Chair and VSF Executive Director briefed Delegates Cox and Janis on Foundation operations and fundraising to date.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) adoption of FY10 budget for VWWP; (2) adoption of new policies associated in-kind donations and care centers and cemeteries support funds, (3) review fund raising program for FY09, and (4) election of Board officers. There will be at least one Finance Committee meeting and perhaps a Development Committee retreat before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Wickersham, VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 6

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS May 20, 2009

State Budget Reductions – Governor’s Introduced Budget (December 17, 2008)

- All state agencies were required to submit 5, 10, and 15 percent reduction plans
- DVS goal was to minimize cuts in direct services to veterans
- The DVS General Fund budget was reduced by \$586,689 in FY09 and \$596,380 in FY10 (7% of DVS General Fund Budget)
- Some of the impact to DVS services include:
 - Reduce support services for contracts, procurement, and capital projects
 - Eliminate 1 administrative position
 - Eliminate 2 wage positions (1 community outreach, 1 workforce development)
 - Funding for Automated Claims System reduced by \$50,000
 - Reduce Virginia Wounded Warrior Program community grants by \$27,922
 - Leave 4 vacant benefit services positions unfilled
- These cuts are on top of reductions of \$288,236 in FY08 and \$38,642 in FY09

State Budget Reductions – Chapter 780 (April 8, 2009)

- Automated Claims System
 - \$50,000 restored to FY09 budget
 - Additional \$100,000 appropriated for FY10 to continue development
- No further cuts to DVS budget

DVS/VSF Legislation – 2009 General Assembly

Bill Number	Sponsor	Summary
HB2199	Watts	Provides that a member of the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation may be removed by the appointing authority for that member. Currently any member may be removed by the Governor regardless of the appointing authority
HB2279	Bowling	Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to ensure that benefit claims assistance is provided on a regular basis at locations other than established service offices. Current law specifies that the Commissioner shall ensure that the personnel assigned to process benefit claims shall provide these services at locations other than the service office at least one day per week
HB2639	Jones	Exempts from the mandatory disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (i) personal information contained in the Veterans Care Center Resident Trust Funds concerning residents or patients of the Department of Veterans Services care centers and (ii) certain records maintained in connection with fundraising activities by the Veterans Services Foundation

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP)

- \$1.7M has been awarded through the VWWP competitive grants (see attached Press Release)
 - Services to be provided by the VWWP grant recipients range from increased outpatient counseling and crisis intervention for veterans, their spouses and children, to day programs and other support for veterans with traumatic brain injuries.
 - The initial period of the grant funding is through June 2010
- The VWWP is going after additional grant opportunities. Letters of Support or direct participation include grants with:
 - The Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Partnership for People with Disabilities
 - US Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program- Priority to Veterans
 - VCU Center for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering (CERSE) proposal focused on veterans with spinal cord injuries
- DVS VWWP hosted an executive level meeting with DRS, DMHMRSAS, the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, and USDVA representatives. This group will be formalized in the near future to help coordination of state efforts in the area of Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury
- The VWWP Advisory Council is being formed and should be in place by July

Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC): Working Capital Update

- SBVCC is now near full occupancy
- However, SBVCC still lacks sufficient working capital
 - This is because the Care Centers operate on a reimbursement basis – Medicare, Medicaid, USDVA Per Diem, and Insurance payments are all received after services are provided
 - SBVCC cannot apply for reimbursement for services delivered until the end of the month, with reimbursement payments received 30 – 45 days later
 - For example, SBVCC must wait until the end of April to submit reimbursement for services delivered in April. Payment will not be received until early or mid-June
- The result is that SBVCC is still not meeting prompt payment timelines established by the Department of Accounts (DOA), because SBVCC does not yet have sufficient working capital to pay bills timely
- SBVCC will not accumulate sufficient working capital until the end of 2009

How did we get to this point?

Action/Milestone	Planned	Actual	Explanation
Accept First Residents	October 2007	January 2008	Delays in getting occupancy permit and fire marshal certification
Reach Full Occupancy	April 2008 (6 months after opening)	April 2009 (15 months after opening)	Initial demand lower than expected; More time required to raise public awareness than anticipated; It took longer to establish relationships with discharge planners at area hospitals than expected
Supplemental Funding needed to reach break-even level	\$787,100 treasury loan	\$2.2 million treasury loan; \$3 million transferred from VVCC cash reserves; \$1.1 million from construction project	Delays in opening and reaching full occupancy meant that SBVCC did not generate sufficient funds to meet operating expenses according to the anticipated timeline
Treasury loan repayment	To be repaid by December 2008, using only SBVCC funds	Repay treasury loan by June 30, 2010, using both SBVCC and VVCC funds	The larger treasury loan and delays in opening and reaching full occupancy mean that it will take longer than planned to repay the treasury loan

Lessons learned for opening future care centers:

- Involve local government representatives in facility design and construction to avoid delays in issuing occupancy permit and fire marshal permits
- Develop realistic startup timeline: it will take 12 – 18 months to reach full occupancy
- Better coordinate hiring of staff with admission of residents – this will prevent having excess staff on board when there are few residents in the facility
- Begin marketing and outreach efforts even earlier
- ***Request General Fund support instead of a Treasury Loan to meet start-up costs***

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- Includes additional \$150 million for USDVA State Home Grants Program
 - VVCC Renovations will be funded (#54 on USDVA Priority List)
 - If other states turn down federal fund, two Virginia projects could be funded:
 - SBVCC Expansion (#71)
 - Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center construction (#72)

- Virginia has committed state funds (35% of project costs) for Richmond and Hampton. Roanoke project will be funded internally
- Start-up funding for Hampton will present serious challenges (see below)
- DVS may be able to apply for Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Funds for a pilot Veterans Court

Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center – Operational Funding

- Because ARRA includes additional funding for the USDVA State Home Grants Program, it is possible that this project could be funded in FY10 or FY11
- DVS will soon begin preparing pre-opening and operating budgets for the HRVCC
- DVS will requests operating funds for the FY11 – FY12 biennium
- *The budget request will incorporate the lessons learned from opening SBVCC, including the need for General Fund support*

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery – Construction Funding

- The 2008 General Assembly authorized a \$1 million loan, to be paid by the USDVA Construction Grant, for design work on the SWVVC
- The \$1 million design loan is now in place and design work is proceeding
- *USDVA has set a goal of opening the cemetery on or before September 30, 2010. DVS is working hard to meet this goal*

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery – Operational Funding

- In order to meet the USDVA goal of opening the cemetery by September 30, 2010, funding will be needed beginning in March or April, 2010 in order to hire and train staff, purchase necessary equipment and supplies, etc.
- DVS will request FY10 funding in the “caboose bill” as well as full operational funding in the FY11 – FY12 budget
 - *DVS estimates that approximately \$45,000 - \$50,000 will be needed in FY10*
 - *FY11 – FY12 funding requirements will be approximately \$300,000 per year*
 - *In addition, one-time funding will be required in FY11 to install highway signs*
 - DVS expects the SWVVC to perform approximately 50 – 75 burials the first full year of operation, growing by approximately 25 burials per year until a level of 200 burials per year is reached
 - This will make the Dublin Cemetery similar in scope to the Amelia Cemetery
 - The cemeteries operate on a mix of General Fund and Non-General Fund monies – the split is approximately 70% General Fund and 30% Non-General Fund
 - *Because the Dublin Cemetery will perform fewer burials the first few years, it will initially need a greater percentage of General Fund support*

APA Audit of Department of Veterans Services

- DVS recently received the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008
- 22 audit points were received in FY07
- In FY08, there were only 3 audit points
 - There were 2 repeat audit points:
 - Several draft policies were supposed to have been completed by June 30, 2008
 - DVS has not completed a physical inventory of fixed assets at all DVS facilities. An inventory is required every two years
 - The new comment was a recommendation for an MOU between DVS and the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees to better define our respective roles

Virginia War Memorial – Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center

- DVS been working with the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB), the Department of General Services (DGS), and the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board to ensure that funding for this project is in place
- A construction contract is now almost ready to be awarded

ATTACHMENT 7

VSF FUNDRAISING RESULTS FOR FY09*

**Unaudited
May 19, 2009**

Income

VWWP	
Lakeview Golf Club	29,182.94
MFSC	15,271.76
VSOs	36,510.52
Virginia Tech**	16,400.00
Board Members	3,150.00
Robinson HS DECA	1,200.00
HUM Church/Case	6,000.00
Individual Donors	<u>6,610.00</u>
VWWP Total Balance	114,325.22
Horton Cemetery	650.00
DAVA & DAV	6,405.80
US Navy Veterans Assn	2,500.00
Dublin Cemetery	
Carneal-Drew Fndtn	1,000.00
Amelia Cemetery	30.00
Foundation Support Fund	1,350.00
Foundation Endowment	<u>150.00</u>
Non-VWWP Total Balance	12,085.80
Total FY09 Income to Date	126,411.02

***Does not include Care Centers or Interest**

**** Painting a Moving Train Agreement Results**

ATTACHMENT 8

MAJOR VWWP CONTRIBUTORS

- AMVETS
- Base-X
- Blue Ridge Beverage Corporation
- Brett Kingstone, Orlando, FL
- City of Hampton
- Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg
- DIAGEO, Inc.
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dominion Resources
- Haygood United Methodist Church
- ITT Night Vision
- Lakeview Golf Club, Harrisonburg
- Legion of Valor
- McGuireWoods
- Military Family Support Centers
- Military Officers Association of America
- Marine Corps League
- Optical Cable
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Robinson Secondary School Students, Fairfax
- Tactical & Survival Specialties, Inc.
- The Honorable Mark Warner
- The Newbern Foundation
- Value Options
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Trustees

ATTACHMENT 9

JLC Powers and Duties Review Information Paper

Background:

At the March 25, 2009, Joint Leadership Council quarterly meeting, Jenny Holbert, Vice Chair, was asked to lead a project with Mason Botts and David Ellis. The purpose of the project is to review the powers and duties of the JLC established in the Code of Virginia (Attachment A).

Since the JLC first organized, it has done a tremendous effort working on legislative issues for the General Assembly's consideration and many initiatives have moved forward because of the strength of the veteran constituency within the Commonwealth and JLC.

The JLC has also developed a close relationship with the Department of Veterans Services, the Board of Veterans Services, the Veterans Services Foundation and others, always with the goal to improve the lives of our veterans, their spouses, widows, orphans and family members.

Discussion:

The Powers and Duties of the Code were written to allow the JLC to act (Powers), and with an expectation that the JLC would act (Duties), on a range of matters. This gives the JLC wide latitude to determine the best course as it matures as an organization. The range and scope of JLC activities can be argued, but what follows is a cursory assessment to date, addressing each subparagraph of the Powers and Duties.

Paragraph A.1: The JLC has the power to advise DVS on methods to provide support of ongoing veterans services and programs, but only does so on an intermittent basis (for example, strategic planning and the Automated Claims System workgroup). The JLC does address veterans issues, mostly through legislative initiatives and support.

Paragraphs A.2, A.3 and A.5: The JLC is very active in recommending issues and advising the DVS on issues and matters that pertain to our veterans, their spouses, widows, orphans and family members, mostly through legislative initiatives and support to DVS programs.

Paragraph A.4: The JLC does generally promote and support veterans' services and programs, particularly by distributing information from DVS to their respective VSO memberships.

Paragraph A.6: This paragraph discusses the approach JLC should take to their work and the JLC has consistently maintained a non-partisan approach.

Recommendation:

Upon review, the JLC is doing a tremendous effort with advising, recommending and supporting issues through legislative work and raising issues, but it may want to consider increasing efforts to promote and support DVS services and programs, and to specific audiences. The following are ideas the members could examine more closely, or provide a starting point to generate discussion on future initiatives:

- Reach out to veterans who are not known to DVS or Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) through an awareness campaign to ensure they are aware of available resources, benefits and entitlements from the Commonwealth and federal programs.

- Reach out to specific groups like spouses, widows, orphans and family members to promote existing DVS and federal programs; identify gaps in current Commonwealth benefits and entitlements.

- Provide greater support to organizations and programs through fundraising, and volunteering time and operational support.

- Communicate actively with both VSO and civic organizations like Chambers of Commerce, Jaycees, Ruritan clubs, etc., by providing regular updates of JLC activities and successful legislative efforts.

- Increase involvement in specific issues and programs like veterans court, cremains, hunting licenses, VA benefits, the new GI Bill, care centers, cemeteries, VA education and training, etc.

- Assist in creating and promoting local military/veterans advisory councils in regions throughout the Commonwealth.

- Research other states' initiatives to improve the lives of our veterans, their spouses, widows, orphans and family members.

- Partner with DVS to reach known veterans by strengthening methods of information distribution to the VSOs.

- Examine the current Duties and Powers to determine if changes are warranted, i.e., should the JLC be empowered to directly advise the Governor and General Assembly on matters of veterans, spouses, widows, orphans and family members?

The JLC has proved it is a highly successful and effective body to improve the lives of Virginia's veterans and their families in a relatively short time. Success in the future will depend on the JLC's vigilance to continually examine its vision and purpose.

Prepared by: Jenny Holbert on May 15, 2009

Attachment A to JLC Powers and Duties Review

§ 2.2-2682. Powers and duties.

A. The Council shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Advise the Department of Veterans Services regarding (i) methods of providing support for ongoing veterans services and programs, and (ii) addressing veterans issues on an ongoing basis;
2. Recommend issues that may potentially impact veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents;
3. Advise the Department of Veterans Services and the Board of Veterans Services on matters of concern to Virginia-domiciled veterans and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents;
4. Promote and support existing veterans services and programs;
5. Recommend and promote implementation of new efficient and effective administrative initiatives that enhance existing veterans services and programs or provide for necessary veterans services and programs not currently provided; and
6. Maintain a nonpartisan approach to maintaining and improving veterans services and programs in the Commonwealth.

B. The chairman shall report to the Commissioner and the Board of Veterans Services the results of its meetings and submit an annual report on or before November 30 of each year.

C. The Council may apply for funds from the Veterans Services Foundation to enable it to better carry out its objectives. The Council shall not impose unreasonable burdens or costs in connection with requests of agencies.

(2003, cc. 657, 670; 2008, cc. 467, 768.)

ATTACHMENT 10

CONDUCTING AN EFFECTIVE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- * PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT
- * GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
 - A KEY FACTOR "START EARLY"
 - VIEW PROGRAM AS "A YEAR LONG ACTIVITY"
 - CONSIDER A "GROUP FORUM" FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
- * PLANNING YOUR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
 - MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR-HIS BUDGET/JLC OBJECTIVES
 - ORGANIZE YOUR "STORMING THE HILL" ATTENDANCE
- * SELECTION/SUBMISSION OF JLC STATE OBJECTIVES
 - ADDRESS "TOTAL MILITARY COMMUNITY NEEDS"
- * ACCEPT A "SPONSOR" ROLE AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES
 - PREPARATION/SUBMISSION OF VITAL "POSITION PAPERS"
- * BECOME KNOWLEDGEABLE ON OBJECTIVE DETAILS
 - UTILIZE "LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM"-STAY CURRENT
- * ESTABLISH ON-GOING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATIONSHIPS
 - PLANNING HOME OFFICE VISIT WITH ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
- * CONSIDERATIONS/SELECTION OF JLC OBJECTIVE "PATRONS"
- * ADHERE TO JLC POLICY TO "SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE"
- * ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS
 - E-MAIL/PHONE CALLS BEFORE COMMITTEE HEARINGS
- * REVIEW "LESSONS LEARNED" SUMMARIES ON PAST PROGRAMS

ATTCHMENT 11




AUSA PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES 2010

AUSA proposes that the following be adopted as priority legislative objectives by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organization for 2010. These proposed priority legislative objectives are not listed in any numerical order of priority.

1. **Real Estate Tax relief for 100% Disabled Veterans:** AUSA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly pass legislation to amend the Virginia Constitution that would require local governments to grant real estate tax exemptions for 100% disabled veterans without regards to means testing.
2. **Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries:** AUSA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly appropriate funds so that burial vaults may be provided at no cost at Virginia state veterans' cemeteries.
3. **Continue Funding the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program:** AUSA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly provide necessary funds to continue the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and to expand the staff by one full time position.
4. **Military Family Relief Fund:** AUSA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation providing that benefits paid from the Military Family Relief Fund shall be nontaxable.
5. **Special Veterans Courts:** AUSA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation to provide for special courts to try veterans suffering from PTSD or TBI..


Attachment 12

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission 2009 Workplan – Homeless Veterans Study




**Reducing Homelessness
Among Veterans in Virginia**

Staff: Eric Messick (Team Leader)

 JLARC

Study Mandate

- Letter from Delegate Cox dated January 22, 2009, requested JLARC study ways to reduce homelessness among veterans in the Commonwealth

 JLARC

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Background

- As of fall 2008, about 814,000 veterans lived in Virginia, according to the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Veterans experience homelessness due to effects of PTSD, traumatic brain injury as well as other causes
- Specialized services available, including through U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Services are also available from State, local, and private sources

Study Issues

1. Examine current level of services provided by federal, State, local, and private sources
2. Identify gaps in those services
3. Identify need for additional services and their cost

Study Schedule

Research and Analysis	Fall 2009 - Spring 2010
Briefing	Summer 2010